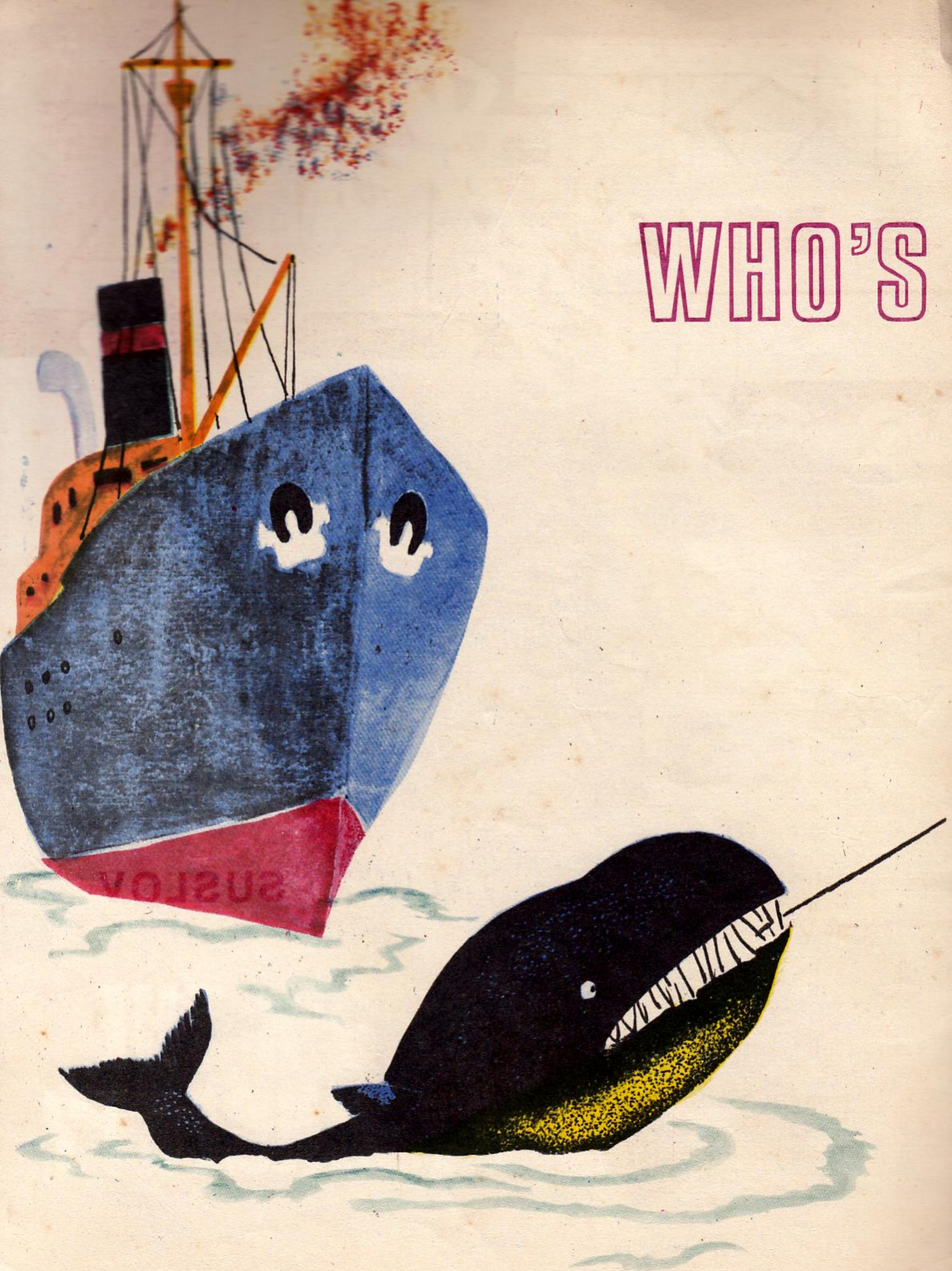


VALERY SUSLOV

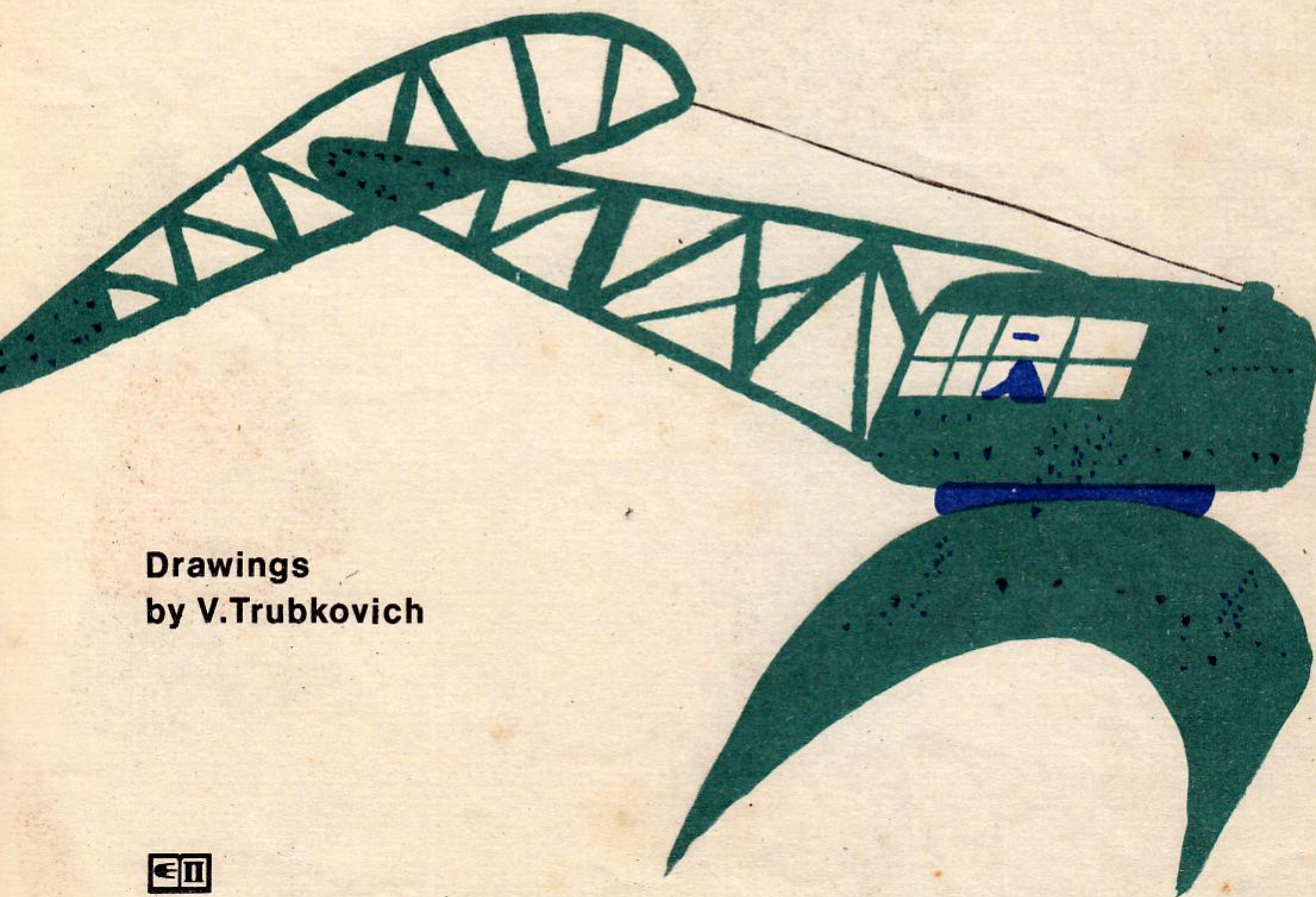
WHO'S THE STRONGEST?

WHO'S



VALERY SUSLOV

THE STRONGEST?



**Drawings
by V.Trubkovich**



**Progress Publishers
Moscow**





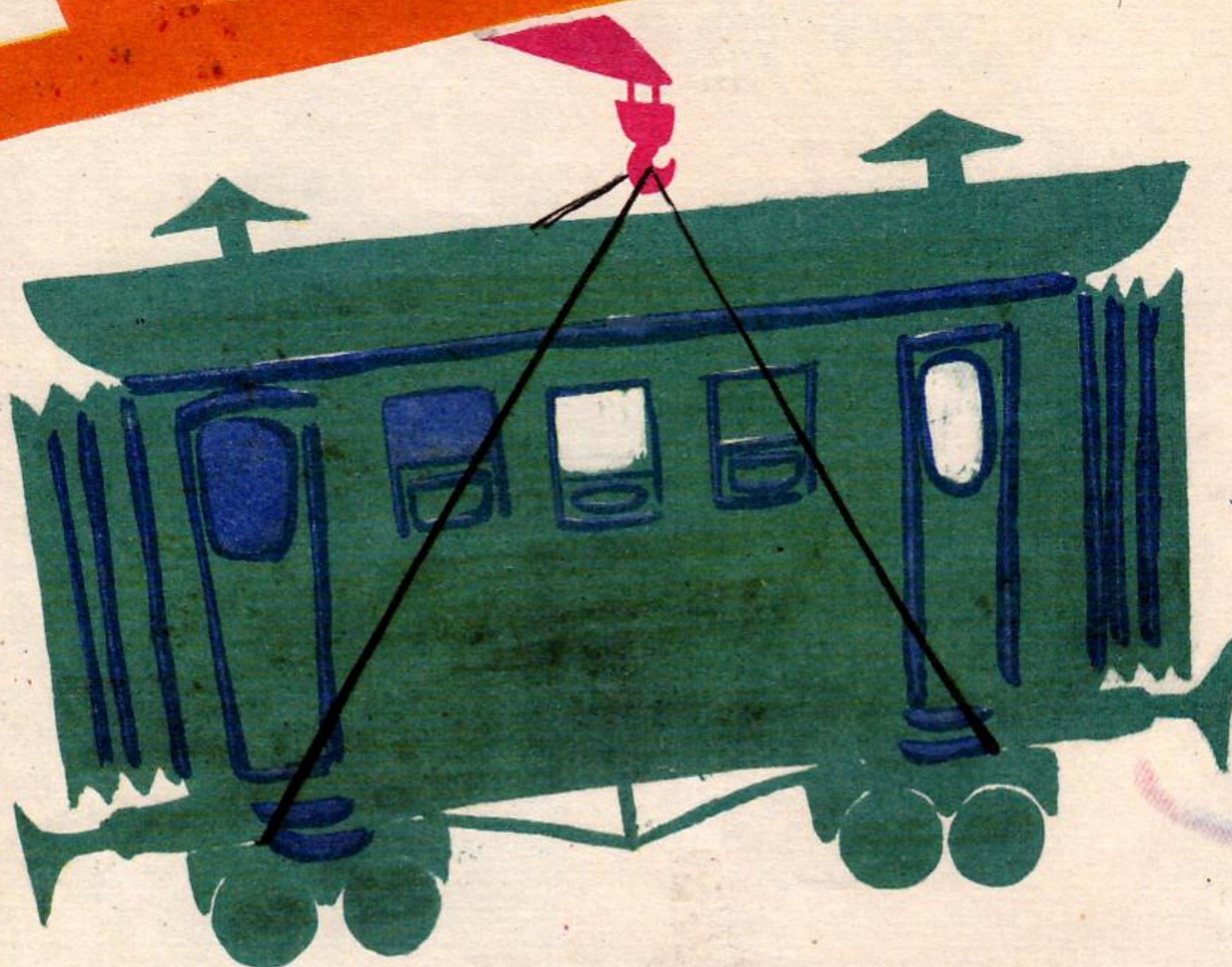
Alec was always asking Anton questions.

"How high is the sky?"

"What's deeper, the sea or the ocean?"

"Can you dig a hole in the Earth and come out on the other side?"

Today, too, he was skipping along, trying to keep up with Anton saying, "Who's stronger, an elephant or a whale? And who's the strongest of all?"



Anton was in a hurry. He was grown-up and had many things to do. But Alec kept right on.

"Tell me who's the strongest?"

"See that crane over there?" Anton said. "It's lifting a railway coach. That means it can lift an elephant or a whale as easily as a feather."

This was something Alec had never thought of. He was silent for a few moments and then asked, "But what's stronger than a crane, Anton?"



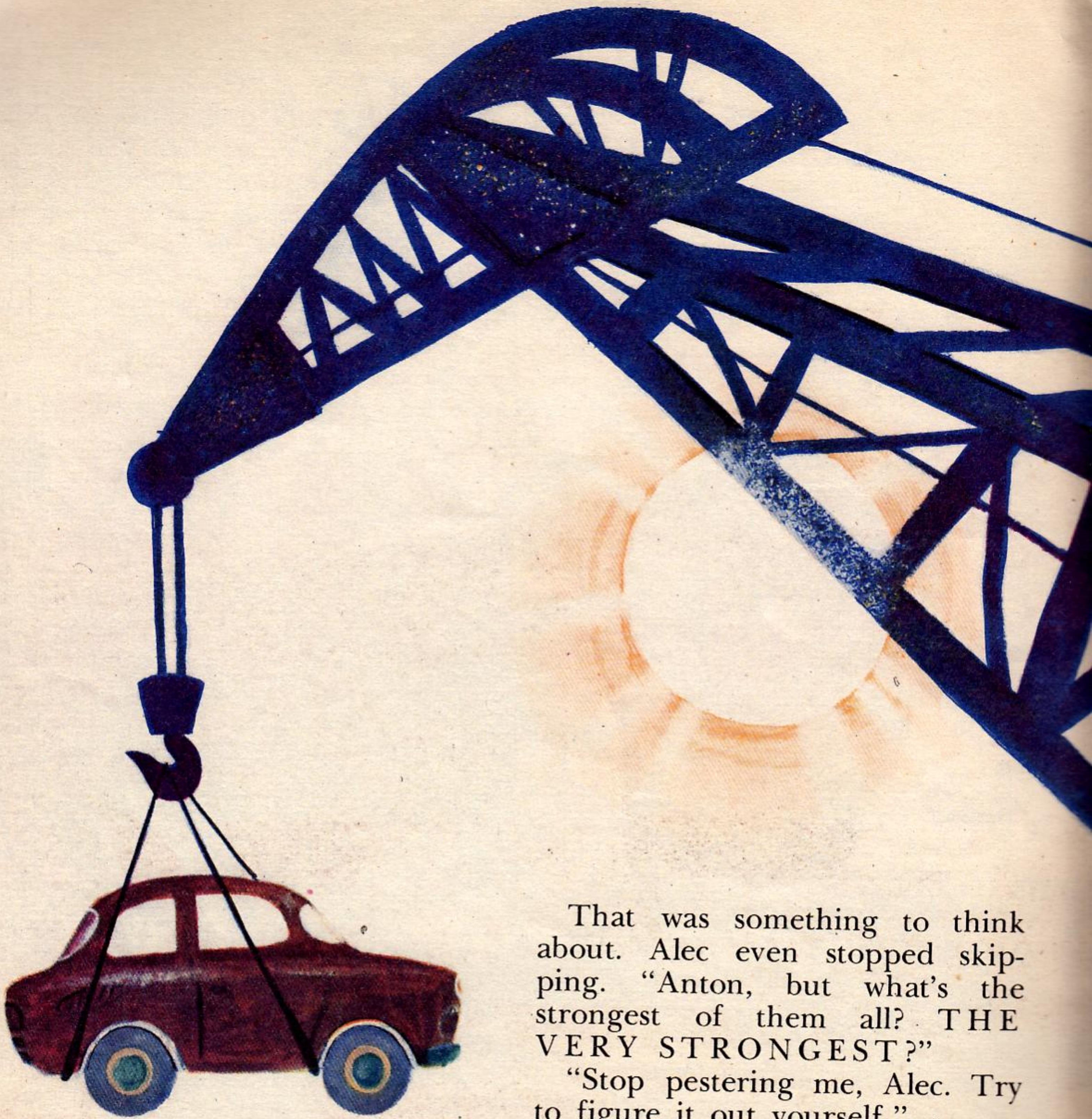
"See that blue electric locomotive pulling fifty freight cars? All of them are loaded to the very top. That means the locomotive is much stronger than the crane, doesn't it?"

"Yes," Alec replied slowly. "Then what's stronger than an electric locomotive?"

"Look over there," Anton said, picking Alec up and standing him on the embankment railing. "See that ship being loaded? It'll take lumber, bales, barrels and crates far across the sea. Its hold is so big it can take on twenty-five trains. Perhaps even thirty. It will carry them all across the sea."







That was something to think about. Alec even stopped skipping. "Anton, but what's the strongest of them all? THE VERY STRONGEST?"

"Stop pestering me, Alec. Try to figure it out yourself."

Alec thought and thought but couldn't decide.

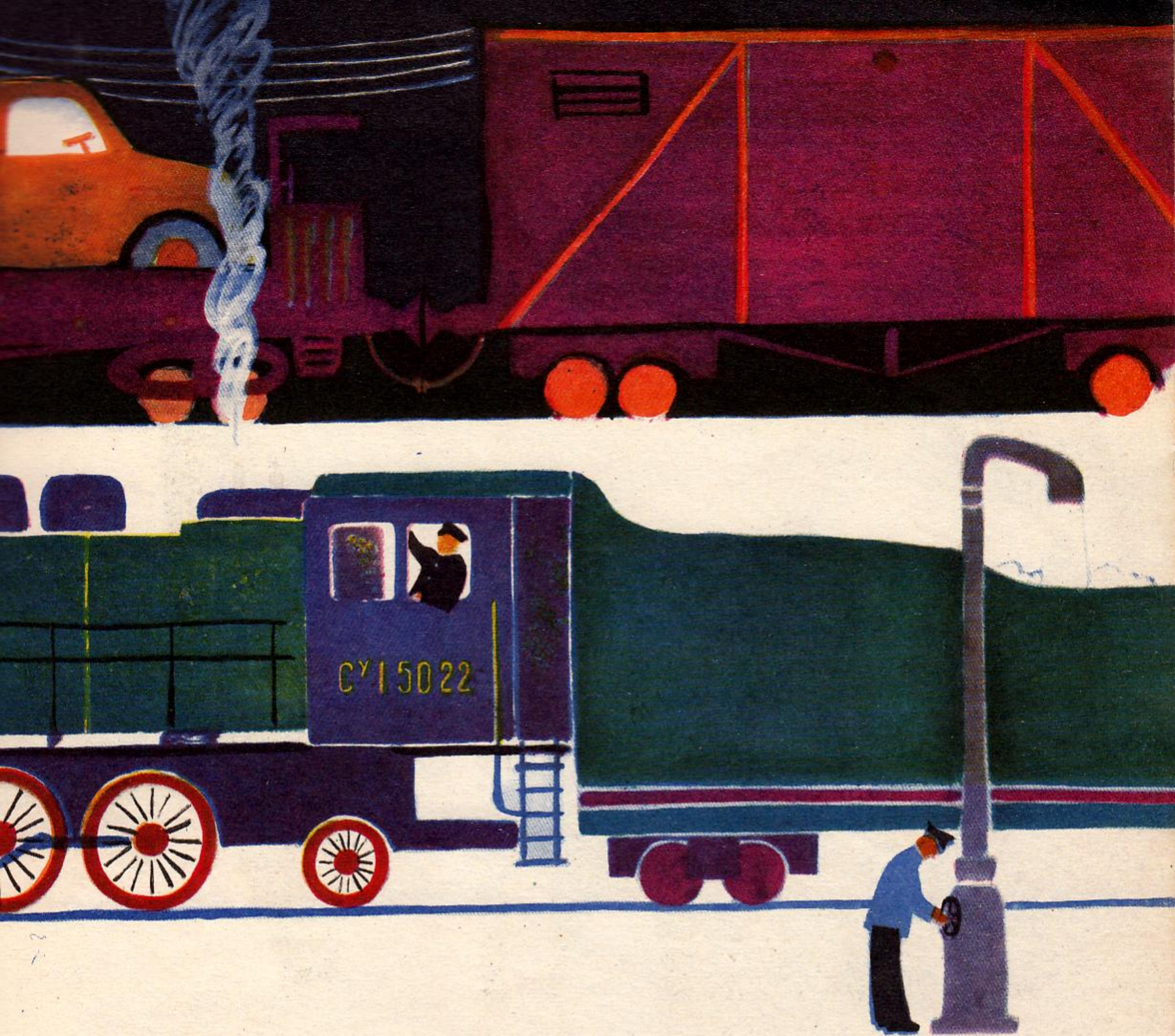
"Come on, tell me," he said at last.

"Who makes the crane lift its long boom? Who makes it work?"

"I know! The crane operator!"







“And who makes the electric locomotive move along the rails and pull fifty freight cars?”
“The engineer.”



“What do you need to make
a ship sail across the sea?”

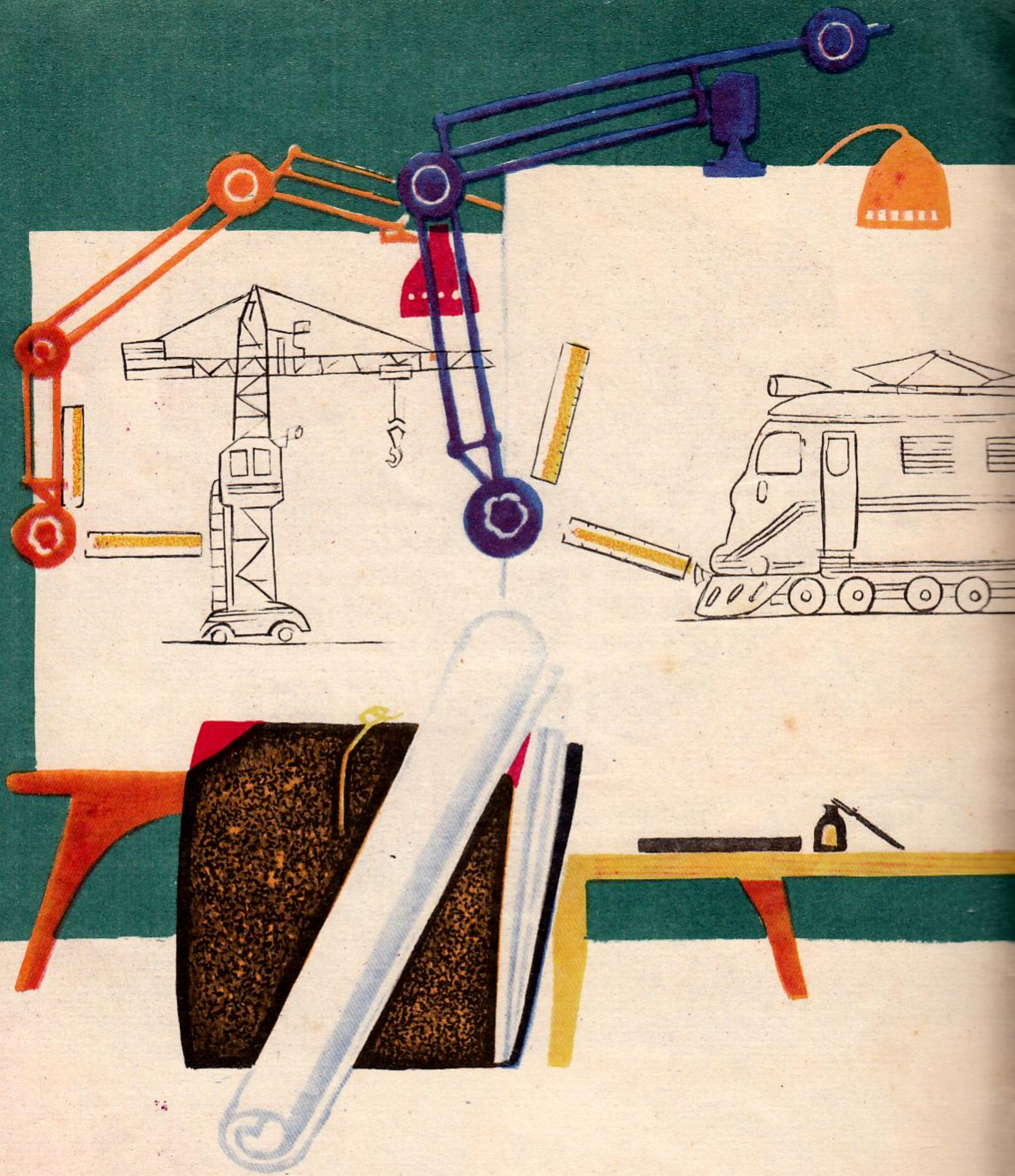
“I know! A captain and a
crew!”







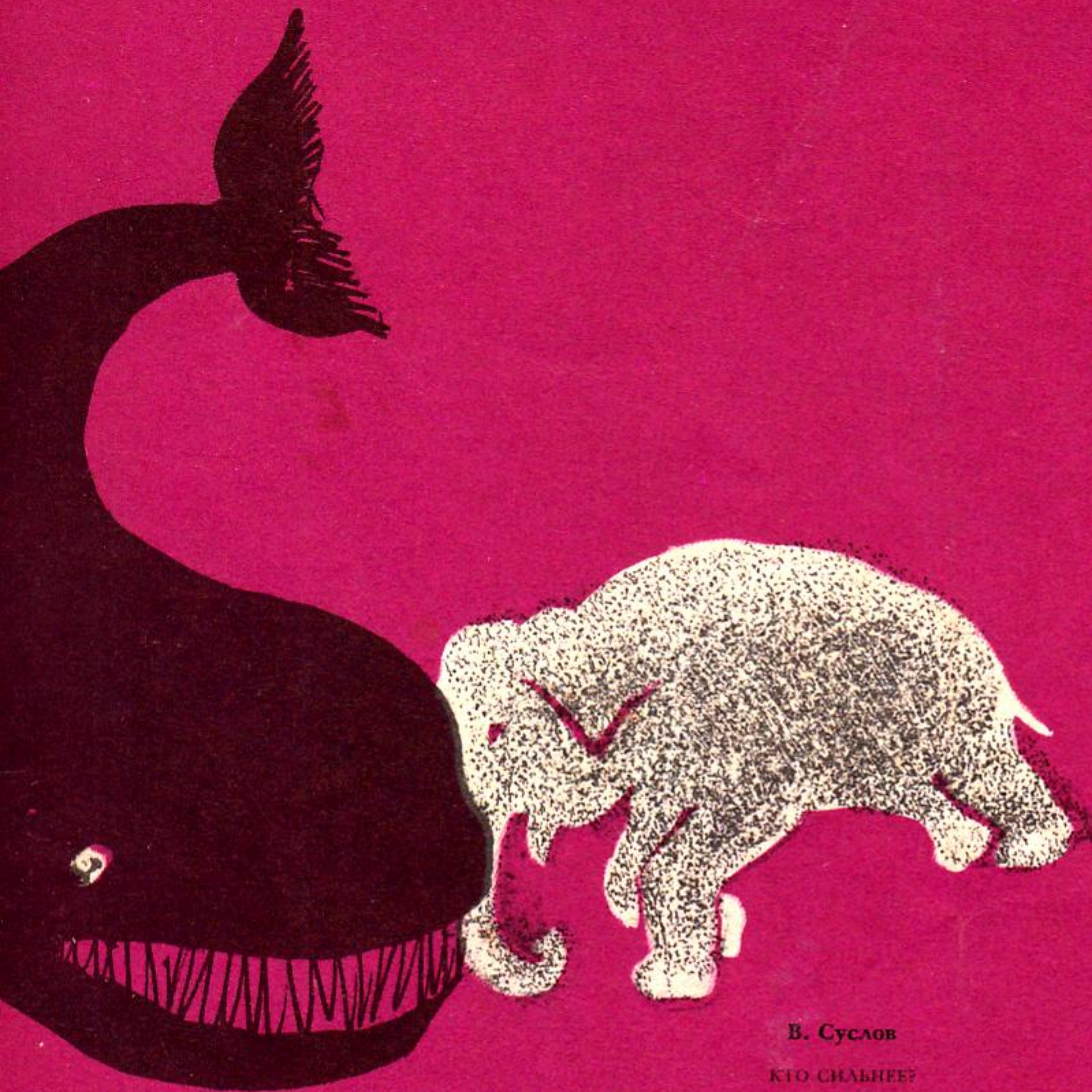
“And who built the crane, the electric locomotive
and the ship?”
“PEOPLE.”



“WELL, THEN, WHO’S THE
STRONGEST OF ALL?”
“WE ARE.”



Translated from the Russian by Fainna Solasko



В. Суслов

КТО СЛАБШЕ?

На английском языке

English translation © Progress Publishers, 1974

Printed in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics